

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

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DRAFTED BY D/PW:FASIEVERTS:JS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085228

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, VS, NV

SUBJECT: PW/MIA'S

1. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON POSSIBILITY OF USDEL
IN FPJMT REQUESTING PRIVATE MEETING WITH DRV COUNTERPARTS
TO DISCUSS FURTHER PRACTICAL STEPS TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE 8B.

2. SPECIFIC PROPOSAL THAT OCCURS TO US WOULD BE FOR USDEL
TO REQUEST RETURN OF REMAINS OF US PILOTS IDENTIFIED IN
THE PAST AS HAVING DIED IN THEIR AIRCRAFT IN NVN, THAT IS,
WITHOUT BEING CAPTURED. DRV HAS IN THE PAST IDENTIFIED A
NUMBER OF SUCH PERSONS, IN BROADCASTS, PUBLICATIONS,
THROUGH PEACE GROUPS, AND, IN ONE CASE, THROUGH US SENATOR
GEORGE MCGOVERN. THESE NAMES WERE NOT HOWEVER INCLUDED
ON THE LISTS PROVIDED JANUARY 27 PURSUANT TO THE PARIS
AGREEMENT, NOR HAVE THEIR REMAINS OR PERSONAL EFFECTS
BEEN RETURNS. REQUEST FOR RETURN OF THESE REMAINS COULD
BE PRESENTED TO DRV IN PRIVATE MEETING AS LOGICAL FOLLOW-
UP TO THE RETURN OF THE REMAINS OF THE 23 IDENTIFIED AS
HAVING DIED IN CAPTIVITY. (WE UNDERSTAND CASE FILES HELD
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BY USDEL CONTAIN INFORMATION ON THESE CASES. SOME OBVIOUS

ONES INCLUDE NAVY LCDR RONALD W. DODGE, AF COL. ARTHUR S. MEARNS, AF CAPTS. JAMES A. HOCKRIDGE AND ALLEN U. GRAHAM, AND AF LT. SAM FANTLE.)

3. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO REQUEST RETURN OF REMAINS OF US PERSONNEL LISTED ON JAN. 27 PRG LISTS AS HAVING DIED IN CAPTIVITY IN SVN, SINCE THIS ALSO IS LOGICAL NEXT STEP AFTER RETURN OF DIC'S FROM NVN.

4. WE RECOGNIZE PRESENT TIME MAY BE INOPPORTUNE FOR SUCH AN APPROACH, IN AFTERMATH OF TONG LE CHAN AND IN VIEW OF DRV/PRG IRRITATION OVER PRIVELEGES AND IMMUNITIES AND DISRUPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS, AND WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS AS WELL.

5. FYI, PURSUANT TO DECREE OF US COURT IN NEW YORK, MILITARY SERVICES HAVE RESUMED PW/MIA STATUS REVIEWS, AS WARRANTED, ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS, WITH OPPORTUNITY FOR NEXT OF KIN TO ATTEND HEARING AND PRESENT EVIDENCE. END FYI. KISSINGER

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